

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
NORTHERN DIVISION
No. 2:97-CR-2-BO
No. 2:12-CV-40-BO

FRED JULIAN HARVEY,)
 Petitioner,)
 v.)
)
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
 Respondent.)

ORDER

This cause comes before the Court on petitioner's motion to vacate, set aside, or correct sentence pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255 [DE 40]. In his motion, petitioner (Mr. Harvey) contends that he is no longer a career offender in light of *United States v. Simmons*, 649 F.3d. 237 (4th Cir. 2011) (en banc). The government has moved to dismiss Mr. Harvey's Motion to Vacate [DE 49].

BACKGROUND

Petitioner was charged in a three-count indictment with conspiracy to knowingly and intentionally distribute and possess with the intent to distribute heroin, cocaine and crack cocaine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) & 846. After a trial Mr. Harvey was convicted on each of the three counts. Mr. Harvey was sentenced by this Court on July 28, 1997, to a term of 360 months' imprisonment. The petitioner's sentence was based, in part, on his criminal history and reflected the application of the career offender enhancement. Mr. Harvey was sentenced to a term of imprisonment of three years in the early 1980's for the sale and delivery of controlled substances on two separate occasions. In 1989, petitioner was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for carrying a firearm in relation to a drug trafficking crime. On August 5, 1997, Mr. Harvey appealed the judgment currently at issue. On October 9, 1998, the Fourth Circuit

affirmed the judgment of this Court. On March 11, 2008, Mr. Harvey filed a motion for retroactive application of the sentencing guidelines to crack cocaine cases. This Court denied that motion on December 17, 2009 and Mr. Harvey appealed that ruling. On March 12, 2010, the Fourth Circuit dismissed that appeal. Mr. Harvey filed the instant § 2255 motion on July 2, 2012.

DISCUSSION

I. PETITIONER'S MOTION IS UNTIMELY AND IS NOT SUBJECT TO EQUITABLE TOLLING.

The government contends that Mr. Harvey's motion is untimely and is not subject to equitable tolling. A motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 must be filed within one year of the latest of four triggering events: (1) the date the judgment of conviction becomes final, (2) the date on which an impediment to making a motion that is created by the government is removed, (3) the date the Supreme Court initially recognizes a right that is made retroactively applicable to cases on collateral review, or (4) the date on which new facts are discovered through the exercise of due diligence to support a claim. 28 U.S.C. § 2255(f)(1)-(4). Mr. Harvey argues that his motion is timely under § 2255(f)(4) and that equitable tolling should apply.

Although "facts" in this context have been held to include court rulings and the legal consequences of known facts, *Johnson v. United States*, 544 U.S. 295, 308-09 (2005), the court ruling or legal consequence must have occurred in the petitioner's *own case*; in other words, court decisions that clarify the law as opposed to the facts supporting a particular petitioner's habeas claim may not serve as triggering events for purposes of the one-year limitations period. *Shannon v. Newland*, 410 F.3d 1083, 1088-89 (9th Cir. 2005); *see also Lo v. Endicott*, 506 F.3d 572, 575 (7th Cir. 2007). As Mr. Harvey has pointed to no court order entered in his own case or

other newly discovered fact that might serve as a basis for triggering the limitations period under § 2255(f)(4), the instant petition is untimely.

Nor is equitable tolling available to render Mr. Harvey's petition timely. This Court has earlier held that cases such as this could be deemed timely under § 2255(f)(3), finding that the right announced by the Supreme Court in *Carachuri-Rosendo v. Holder*, ___ U.S. ___, 130 S.Ct. 2577 (2010), is retroactive on collateral review and that equitable tolling could apply if a petition was filed within a short time of the holding in *Simmons*. See e.g. *Mathis v. United States*, 7:09-CR-139-BO, 2012 WL 1156438 (E.D.N.C. April 6, 2012). The Fourth Circuit has recently held, however, that the rule announced in *Carachuri-Rosendo* is procedural and is not retroactively applicable to cases on collateral review. *United States v. Powell*, No. 11-6152, 2012 WL 3553630 *5 (4th Cir. August 20, 2012). Accordingly, Mr. Harvey's motion to vacate is also untimely under § 2255(f)(3). As the Court is unaware of any basis upon which to find the petition timely under the remaining provisions of § 2255(f), the Court must dismiss Mr. Harvey's petition.

II. PETITIONER'S UNDERLYING FELONY CONVICTIONS ARE UNAFFECTED BY *SIMMONS*.

Even if petitioner's motion had been timely filed, his argument that his prior felony convictions, and resulting career offender status, should be reconsidered under *United States v. Simmons*, 649 F.3d 237 (4th Cir. 2011) fails. In his various filings with this court, petitioner argues that as a result of the Fourth Circuit's decision in *Simmons*, and its progeny, he should not be subject to sentencing enhancements as a career offender.

However, *Simmons* is only applicable in cases where the defendant's prior felonies

resulted in a sentence of imprisonment for a period less than twelve months. Here, Mr. Harvey was convicted of two underlying felonies each with a sentence exceeding twelve months. As such, under *Carachuri-Rosendo* and *Simmons* petitioner remains a career offender and, therefore, has failed to state a claim upon which relief might be granted. As such, the government's motion to dismiss is GRANTED.

Certificate of Appealability

Rule 11 of the Rules Governing Section 2255 Cases ("Habeas Rules") provides "the district court must issue or deny a certificate of appealability when it enters a final order adverse to the applicant." Having determined that petitioner is not entitled to relief and the government is entitled to dismissal of the petition, the Court considers whether petitioner is nonetheless entitled to a certificate of appealability with respect to one or more of the issues presented in his habeas petition.

A certificate of appealability may issue only upon a "substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right." 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2). Where a petitioner's constitutional claims have been adjudicated and denied on the merits by the district court, the petitioner must demonstrate reasonable jurists could debate whether the issue should have been decided differently or show the issue is adequate to deserve encouragement to proceed further. *Miller-El v. Cockrell*, 537 U.S. 322, 336-38 (2003); *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 483-84 (2000).

Where a petitioner's constitutional claims are dismissed on procedural grounds, a certificate of appealability will not issue unless the petitioner can demonstrate both "(1) 'that jurists of reason would find it debatable whether the petition [or motion] states a valid claim of denial of a constitutional right' and (2) 'that jurists of reason would find it debatable whether the


district court was correct in its procedural ruling.” *Rose v. Lee*, 252 F.3d 676, 684 (4th Cir. 2001) (quoting *Slack*, 529 U.S. at 484). “Each component of the § 2253(c) showing is part of a threshold inquiry, and a court may find that it can dispose of the application in a fair and prompt manner if it proceeds first to resolve the issue whose answer is more apparent from the record and arguments.” *Slack*, 529 U.S. at 484-85.

After reviewing the claims presented in the petition in light of the applicable standard, the Court finds that the governing standard has not been satisfied. This Court hereby DENIES petitioner a certificate of appealability.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, for the reasons discussed above, the government’s motion to dismiss is GRANTED and petitioner’s motion to vacate pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255 is DISMISSED. A certificate of appealability is DENIED as to the finding that the petition is untimely.

SO ORDERED, this 2 day of October, 2012.


TERRENCE W. BOYLE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE